

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-12, and 14-15 remain pending in the application. Claims 5 and 12 have been cancelled. In view of the above referenced amendments, and the remarks recited herein, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims 8-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action mailed May 26, 2006, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite because the Examiner states that it is unclear where the aqueous cleaning solution is being directed to after leaving the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-15 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112 has been overcome in view of the amendments made to such claims. That is, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to replace the word "passing" with the word "removing".

In view thereof, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn, as applicable to the claims now pending in the application.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

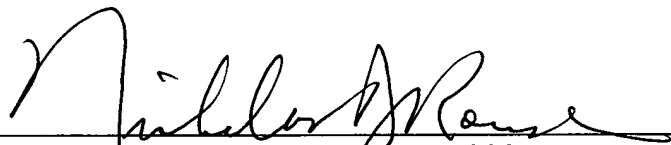
In the Office Action mailed May 26, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner also indicated claims 5-7 and 13-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

While Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-4 and 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-4 and 8-12 have been obviated by the present amendments. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5 which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Claim 5 has been cancelled, and claims 6 and 7 have been amended to depend directly from amended claim 1. Similarly, claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13 which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Claim 13 has been cancelled, and claims 14 and 15 have been amended to depend directly from amended claim 8.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider each and every rejection and as applicable to the claims now pending in the application and issue a timely Notice of Allowance.

This amendment is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed May 26, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas D. Rouse", is written over a horizontal line.

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